while the matter relating to the setting up of Nodal Agency was under the consideration of the Government, the concerned enforcement agencies who were represented in the Vohra Committee continued to take action against various crime syndicates under the laws of the country as contemplated.

Losses Due to Demurrage Claims

*95. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been incurring huge losses on account of demurrage claims by ship-owners because of delays at various Indian ports;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of losses (in foreign exchange) suffered during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to upgrade and expand the ports to minimise the losses and the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT: (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Issues and Problems facing Jail Administration and the Undertrials

*96. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have recommended to Chief Justice of High Courts and Chief Ministers of various States to cause a review of the undertrials to resolve the problems of jails and the undertrials;

(b) if so, what is their response to this recommendations; and

(c) what are the precise issues and problems facing the jail administration and the undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government interacts with the State Governments at various levels from time to time in order to discuss and remedy the deficiencies in the administration of Criminal Justice System including, *inter alia*, the problems of jails and undertrials. The State Governments have responded positively to the recommendations made and decisions taken during the interactions.

(c) The major issues facing the jail administration and the undertrials primarily relate to pendency of cases in various courts leading to overcrowding in jails and other connected problems, rehabilitation of prisoners, service conditions and training needs of jail staff, etc.

Acquisition of Flexible Pipes by ONGC

*97. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1602 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether flexible pipes proposed to be imported by MDL for HX-HY platform have been used in India only for water injection platform and how far these pipes would be suitable for carrying gas and oil;

(b) whether Government have reviewed MDL's quotations and examined the technical suitability of flexible pipes particularly during hydro tests and problems of gas leakage, failure of dynamic risers and couplings; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether ONGC has advised MDL to invite international bids for rigid and flexible pipes; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) In the past, ONGC has installed flexible pipelines of short lengths in small quantities for oil, gas and water injection services.

(b) After detailed review, ONGC has firmed up the rigid pipeline system option with MDL.

(c) The project has been awarded on a nomination basis and is being executed as a

turn-key contract. There is no separate provision requiring the turn-key contractor to select the sub-contractors by international competitive bidding.

Indo-Palestinian relations

*98. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India continued to extend moral and material help to the Palestinian people;

(b) what is the material help which India has given to the Palestinian people during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to further boost and strengthen Indo-Palestinian relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the Washington Donors' Conference in October 1993, India had made a parallel pledge to give the Palestinian people US $ 1 million assistance in kind. In part fulfilment of our pledge made in Washington, India has despatched 84 metric tonnes of tea worth Rs. 78 lakhs in March 1995. The goods reached Gaza in April 1995. In response to an appeal made before a Donors' Meet in Paris in January, 1996, India committed another $ 1 million assistance in kind. In the multilateral Working Group Meeting on Economic Development, India had made an offer to set up a Hi-Tech Centre for Vocational Training which would concentrate on Computers, that included hands on training, software development, computer programming and Computerised Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines. During the visit of Chairman Arafat to India in 1992, a plot of land was handed over to the PLO in New Delhi to build its Embassy. In addition, India has been regularly contributing on an annual basis Rs. 2.25 lakhs to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees. India also offers scholarships for Palestinian students to study in India. Training is being imparted to Palestinians in different fields and new fields where such training can be extended are under consideration.

(c) The decision to open a Representative Office in PNA administered territories has already been taken. The Representative Office will be, for the present, located in Gaza. Following the opening of the Representative Office in Gaza, our trade and economic interests with the region will be pursued. India is also ready to assist in the re-construction of the PNA administered areas.

Repatriation Treaty with Bahrain and Dubai

*99. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has a treaty of repatriation with the Government of Bahrain;

(b) if so, how Dawood Ibrahim's brother Anees who was arrested and interned by Interpol was not handed over to Indian Authorities;

(c) whether India has repatriation treaty with the Dubai also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Negotiations with respect to concluding an Extradition Treaty between India and UAE are going on with two rounds already held. The delegations are actively working towards finalising the same.

Terrorists arrested in Delhi and other State Capitals

*100. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorists arrested in Delhi and in other State capitals of the country from October, 1995 till date;

(b) the nature of their terrorist activities during the period;